Claims:

1. A method of enhancing the resistance of ATM cells to burst errors and jamming, the ATM cells each including a header and payload, the method including the step of interleaving the ATM cell header into an error correction transmission frame.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein error correction is applied separately to the payload and header prior to interleaving them within a transmission frame.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the error correction corresponds to Reed Solomon forward error correction.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the Reed Solomon encoding is applied to the header and payload separately following which the encoded header is interleaved with the encoded payload.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 where empty/idle ATM cells are eliminated/used to substantially match input and output rates of an ATM link.

6. A method of enhancing the resistance of ATM cells to burst errors on jamming substantially as herein described and with reference to figures 2 to 5.

7. An apparatus adapted to enhance the resistance of ATM cells to burst errors and jamming operation in accordance with the method of any of claims 1 to 6.